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SH 2312180

761551N25A - SH-AD-32A

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
A Tradition of Service

DATE: June 3, 2013
FILE NO:

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: STEPHEN B. JOHNSON, COMMANDER
CUSTODY DIVISION

TO: ALICIA E. AULT, CAPTAIN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS:

Case Number:	SH2312180
Incident:	Hit Shooting
Incident Date:	May 5, 2012
Unit:	Lancaster Station
Suspect:	Matthew J. Ridgway, MW/12-17-82
Involved Employees:	Deputy Scott Smith, #[redacted] Deputy Daniel Welle, [redacted]
EFRC Date:	May 23, 2013

The Executive Force Review Committee (EFRC) consisting of Commanders Stephen Johnson, Bobby Denham, and Ralph Webb met and reviewed the above case.

FORCE POLICY RELATING TO INCIDENT:

Law Enforcement officers may use deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others, only when they reasonably believe death or serious physical injury is about to be inflicted upon themselves or others.

FINDINGS:

Deputies responded to the location regarding a woman (victim) being violently assaulted by her [redacted] (suspect). The victim indicated the suspect was armed with a handgun and would not allow her to leave the residence. When deputies arrived, the victim was able to escape from the residence and told the deputies the suspect had assaulted her and threatened to kill her with a rifle. The deputies saw the victim had severe trauma to her face.

The victim also told the deputies that the suspect was wearing camouflage (Kevlar helmet and bulletproof vest) and "was preparing for war because he believed the end was coming." Deputies attempted to contain the scene and requested an aero unit because the rear yard of the residence merged with the desert and contained dense scrubs and exposed cliffs.

Deputies on containment saw the suspect flee from the residence and into the rugged scrubland as the air unit departed for fuel. Do to the terrain, darkness, and the suspect being heavily armed, deputy personnel chose not to pursue the suspect into the desert.

Once the air unit returned, desk personnel received a phone call advising the suspect was possibly hiding in a shed located on the caller's property. As deputies contained this location and were evacuating the residence, one of the deputies saw the suspect run from the shed and raise his right arm in a ninety degree angle toward the residence being evacuated. Fearing for the lives of the deputies and the residents, a deputy fired one shot from his AR-15 rifle. The suspect fell to the ground and out of the deputy's sight.

At approximately the same time, a second deputy, who was assisting with the evacuation, saw the suspect run from the shed and raise his arm in a shooting motion. After hearing a gunshot and believing the suspect was shooting at him, the deputy fired several rounds from his duty weapon and saw the suspect fall to the ground. While on the ground, the suspect appeared to point his weapon at the second deputy. The second deputy fired several additional rounds at the suspect. The suspect indicated he had been hit by the gunfire and was ultimately taken into custody. The suspect sustained one gunshot wound to his left flank area.

The EFRC determined the force used against the armed and uncooperative suspect was reasonable, necessary, and justified. The EFRC also determined the tactics used were within Department policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The EFRC recommended the unit commander, Captain Patrick A. Nelson, conduct a tactical debriefing with all involved personnel regarding the unique circumstances of this incident.

SBJ:JER:jer

761551N25A - SH - AD - 32A (2/72)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service"

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: September 28, 2012
File No.: 012-08277-1197-051

FROM: WILLIAM J. MCSWEENEY, CHIEF DETECTIVE DIVISION

TO: LEROY D. BACA SHERIFF

SUBJECT: **LETTER OF OPINION ON DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING**

The attached Letter of Opinion was received from the District Attorney's Office regarding the case involving Deputies Daniel Welle #[redacted] and Scott Smith #[redacted]

STATION: Lancaster

DATE / TIME OF SHOOTING: May 5, 2012, 2337 Hours

SUSPECT: RIDGWAY, Matthew
MW/29 (Injured – In Custody)

LOCATION: [redacted] 167th Street
Lake Los Angeles (Unincorporated Area)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CONCLUSION:

"Deputies Welle and Smith were confronted by a heavily armed individual who had severely assaulted his own [redacted] and threatened to kill her. Ridgeway has also made statements that he was "ready to go to war" and that the "end was near." Ridgeway's armed flight into the desert posed significant dangers to the responding deputies as well as the neighbors whose homes bordered the desert. Compounding these problems was the extreme darkness of the area and the numerous physical obstacles including sheds and trailers that littered the landscape."

"Deputies Wells and Smith had no way of knowing that Ridgeway had abandoned his firearms before they encountered him. Ridgeway's continued efforts to escape reinforced the impression that he was dangerous and posed an immediate and deadly threat to the deputies and the nearby residents. When Ridgeway pointed his right arms at Smith both Welle and Smith acted to end the grave danger they reasonably perceived. Ridgeway's continued motions along the ground led Smith to believe that the danger still existed. Smith fired in order to end that perceived threat."

"We find that LASD Deputies Daniel Welle and Scott Smith acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of each other. We are closing our file and will take no further action in this matter."

WJM:DS:no



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS
JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION

STEVE COOLEY • District Attorney
JACQUELYN LACEY • Chief Deputy District Attorney
PATRICK R. DIXON • Assistant District Attorney

JANICE L. MAURIZI • Director

August 29, 2012

Captain David Smith
Homicide Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
5747 Rickenbacker Road
Commerce, California 90040

RE: J.S.I.D. File #: 12-0318
L.A.S.D. URN #: 012-08277-1197-051

Dear Captain Smith:

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the May 5, 2012, non-fatal shooting of Matthew Ridgeway, by Los Angeles County Sheriff's (LASD) Deputies Daniel Welle and Scott Smith. We have determined that Deputies Welle and Smith acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of each other.

The District Attorney Command Center was notified of this shooting at 1:30 a.m., on May 6, 2012. The District Attorney Response Team (DART), consisting of Deputy District Attorney Shannon Presby and District Attorney Senior Investigator Norman Weisenstein responded to the scene. They were given a briefing of the circumstances surrounding the incident and a "walk-through" of the shooting scene.

The following analysis is based upon reports submitted by LASD Homicide. No compelled statements were considered for purposes of this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On May 5, 2012, at approximately 9:45 in the evening, [redacted] called the LASD complaining that her adult [redacted], Matthew Ridgeway (Ridgeway) was in her home and physically assaulting her. Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the location on Gold Avenue in the Antelope valley.

The residence is in an extremely rural area. The rear yard merges with the desert rising precipitously to an approximately 500 foot hill of dense scrub and exposed cliffs. While en route to the location the responding deputies received information that Ridgeway was inside the

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Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210
(213) 974-3888
Fax: (213) 620-1208
WEBSITE: http://da.co.la.ca.us

residence and armed with a firearm. Upon arrival, the deputies were advised that Ridgeway was holding [redacted] captive inside the residence.

Approximately 20 minutes later, [redacted] stumbled out of the rear door and collapsed on the driveway. She was moved to safety. Deputies observed that she had been beaten in the face and body and was unable to walk. [redacted] told the deputies that her [redacted] was armed with at least two rifles, was wearing a bullet proof vest, camouflaged clothing and a Kevlar helmet. He was "preparing for war" because he believed that the "end was coming." During his attack upon her, Ridgeway pointed a rifle at her and threatened to kill her.

Given the extremely rugged terrain behind the house, an LASD helicopter was providing surveillance of the rear of the residence, while deputies positioned themselves to either side and to the front of the home. When the airship departed to refuel, Ridgeway exited the back of the house and ran into the desert disappearing into the rugged scrubland.

Given the extreme danger posed by the heavily armed Ridgeway, the absolute darkness and the unfamiliar and extremely rugged terrain the deputies did not pursue Ridgeway into the desert. They expanded their perimeter to prevent Ridgeway from escaping and awaited the return of the LASD airship.

During this period deputies Welle and his partner set up their containment position on 167th Street and Rawhide Avenue. Deputy Welle was armed with a semiautomatic M-4 rifle. Shortly thereafter, a resident informed the deputies that some person was hiding in one of the numerous sheds located on his property. Welle and his partner saw the lights in one of the houses flicking on and off in order to identify where Ridgeway was located. Welle took up a position across the street from the house where he had a view of the sheds on the north side of the residence while other deputies began evacuating the residence.

During this period the LASD helicopter returned and began illuminating the area of the sheds. Welle saw Ridgeway exit and enter the shed several times as though he was trying to gauge the orbit of the helicopter. When the helicopter began orbiting north, Welle saw Ridgeway run from the shed. When Ridgeway took cover near a second shed, Welle saw Ridgeway raise his arm to 90 degrees pointing toward the south in the direction of the evacuation and other deputies. Believing that Ridgeway was pointing a firearm at persons to his south, Welle fired one time. He saw Ridgeway stumble and then Welle heard other gunshots.

Deputy Smith was initially among the deputies watching the east side of the Ridgeway house. Smith saw Ridgeway run from the back of the residence armed with a rifle and wearing a ballistic vest and Kevlar helmet. As Ridgeway made his way up the hillside he repeatedly took cover behind large rocks and turned back in the direction of the deputies. Because Ridgeway was heavily armed and was gaining the high ground compared to the deputies, Smith believed

that Ridgeway posed a direct danger to himself and the other deputies. Once Ridgeway reached the crest of the hill, Smith lost sight of him.

Smith and the other deputies took up positions on Rawhide Avenue. They then became aware that a resident on Rawhide Avenue had advised LASD that a person was hiding in one of his sheds. Deputy Smith and other deputies took positions to the south of the residence. While they were positioning themselves the deputies discovered two boxes of rifle ammunition. As they were evacuating the residents from the home they were told that the ammunition did not belong to them.

During the evacuation, Smith positioned himself on the southeast corner of the house. Shortly thereafter Smith heard over the radio that Ridgeway had exited the shed. Smith saw Ridgeway approximately 30-40 yards north. Ridgeway looked directly at him and raised his right hand pointing it directly at Smith. Smith heard a gunshot and believed that Ridgeway was shooting at him. Smith fired two or three rounds at Ridgeway. Smith then saw Ridgeway on the ground. Smith believed that Ridgeway was lying down in order to fire from a prone position. Smith fired another burst of two to three rounds at Ridgeway. Smith saw Ridgeway rolling to the side and fired one or two more bursts at Ridgeway before Ridgeway extended his arms away from his body allowing the deputies to make certain that he was not armed.

Deputies approached Ridgeway and took him into custody. Ridgeway suffered a gunshot wound to his left side. He was transported by ambulance to the Antelope Valley Hospital for treatment. No firearm was located on Ridgeway's person or in the immediate vicinity of the shooting. Ridgeway's rifle, ballistic vest and helmet were located in the desert behind Ridgeway's home.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

California law permits the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of another if it reasonably appears that the person claiming the right of self-defense actually and reasonably believed that he, or the person defended, was in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death. People v. Randle (2005) 35 Cal. 4th 987, 994; People v. Mercer (1962) 210 Cal.App.2d 153, 161.

In protecting himself or another, a person may use all force which he believes reasonably necessary and which would appear to a reasonable person, in the same or similar circumstances, to be necessary to prevent imminent injury. CALCRIM 3470.

Where the peril is swift and imminent and the necessity for action immediate, the law does not weigh into nice scales the conduct of the assailed and say he shall not be justified in killing because he might have resorted to other means to secure his safety. People v. Collins (1961) 189 Cal.App.2d 575.

CONCLUSION

Deputies Welle and Smith were confronted by a heavily armed individual who had severely assaulted his own [redacted] and threatened to kill her. Ridgeway had also made statements that he was "ready to go to war" and that the "end was near." Ridgeway's armed flight into the desert posed significant dangers to the responding deputies as well as the neighbors whose homes bordered the desert. Compounding these problems was the extreme darkness of the area and the numerous physical obstacles including sheds and trailers that littered the landscape.

Deputies Welle and Smith had no way of knowing that Ridgeway had abandoned his firearms before they encountered him. Ridgeway's continued efforts to escape reinforced the impression that he was dangerous and posed an immediate and deadly threat to the deputies and the nearby residents. When Ridgeway pointed his right arm at Smith both Welle and Smith acted to end the grave danger they reasonably perceived. Ridgeway's continued motions along the ground led Smith to believe that the danger still existed. Smith fired in order to end that perceived threat.

We find that LASD Deputies Daniel Welle and Scott Smith acted lawfully in self-defense and in defense of each other. We are closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.

Very truly yours,

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

By

SHANNON PRESBY
Deputy District Attorney
(213) 974-3888

c: Daniel Welle, #[redacted]
Scott Smith, #[redacted]

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date: 05/05/12	Bureau/Station/Facility: FOR-1/Lancaster Station	Admin. Invest.? ☐ Hit? ☒

Incident Information

URN: 012-08277-1197-051	Date: 05/05/12 Time: 2337
City or Station: Lake Los Angeles	Nature of Incident: Lancaster deputies responded to rural area of Lake Los Angeles regarding an assault with a deadly weapon call. Suspect fled was seen fleeing on foot from his home wearing body armor, a helmet armed with an assault weapon. Deputies saw the suspect running from a shed at the location fearing for their safety fired several rounds at the suspect, striking him once.
Location: [redacted] 167th Street East, Palmdale CA 93591	

Location Type (*circle one or more*): **(Backyard)**, Beach, Business, Freeway, Industrial, Park, Parking Lot, Residence, Rural, School, Street, Other: ______

Lighting (*circle only one*): **(Darkness)**, Daylight, Other, Street Lights

Weather (*circle only one*): **(Clear)**, Cloudy, Fog, Rain

Distance: 100 yards /25 yards

Incident Type (*circle one or more*): Accidental, Armed Person, **(Fleeing Suspect)**, Foot Pursuit, Gun Take Away, Moving Vehicle, Sniper/Ambush, Startle, Struggle Involved, Traffic Stop, Unarmed Person, Unintentional, Vehicle Pursuit, Warrant Service, Warning Shot, Other: ______

Initiated by (*circle only one*): Arrest Warrant, **(Call)**, Observation, One Person Unit, Other, Search Warrant, Two Person Unit

Prior Activity (*circle only one*): Detective, Inmate Transport, Other, **(Routine Patrol)**

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy	Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect	Aero Unit?	Canine Unit?
15	0	☒	☐

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)
[redacted]	Busch	Joshua		EM **(PM)** Day	**(Regular)** Overtime Off Duty
[redacted]	Dobra	Shane		EM **(PM)** Day	**(Regular)** Overtime Off Duty
[redacted]	Dimmit	Christopher		EM **(PM)** Day	**(Regular)** Overtime Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.			
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]			
Street Address	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Work Ph**	**Home Ph**	
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]		[redacted]	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	
Last Name		First Name		M.I.	
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph	

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I	(*circle one or more*)
[redacted]	Zollo	William		**(On Duty)**, Present during shooting, Witness to shooting, Involved in shooting
[redacted]	Digiovanni	Ronald		**(On Duty)**, Present during shooting, Witness to shooting, Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Daniels	Richard	

PSTD Use Only
SH # SH2312180`

Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 012-08277-1197-051

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
05/06/12	0055		

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I
[redacted]	Carrizosa	Slade	M
[redacted]	Hamil	Jeffrey	
[redacted]	Vaughan	Stephen	

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
E#1	S#1	FH	HK	45	Y	Y	GS	AD
E#2	S#1	FR	CO	23	Y	Y	NN	

SH-R-438A rev. 3/07

See Front Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 012-08277-1197-051

Involved Employee

E 1

Field	Value
Employee #	[redacted]
Last Name	Smith
First Name	Scott
M.I.	
Sex	M
Race	W
Rank	Deputy
Unit Assignment	Lancaster
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)	111G
ShiftTime (circle only one): EM / PM / Day	PM (circled)
ShiftType (circle only one): Regular / Overtime / Off Duty	Regular (circled)
Intoxication/Drug Usage?	☐
Substance Used	
Hospital Admission?	☐
Hospital Name	
Coroner Case?	☐
Coroner Case #	
Interviewed?	☒
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	7
Duty Time (hrs)	[redacted]
Clothing (circle only one): Plain Clothes no Vest / Plain Clothes w/ Vest / Raid Jacket no Vest / Raid Jacket w/ Vest / Uniform no Vest / Uniform w/ Vest	Uniform w/ Vest (circled)
Other Factors	
Age	[redacted]
Height	600
Weight	195
Range Qualification Date	[redacted]
PPC Qualification Date	
Laser Training Date	
Certified with Weapon Used?	[redacted]
Patrol Certification?	[redacted]
Certification Unit	[redacted]
Prior Shootings?	[redacted]
Number of Prior Shootings	[redacted]
Directed Force	[redacted]
Weapons Fired Brand	Heckler&Koch
Caliber	.45
# Shots	14
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]

E 2

Field	Value
Employee #	[redacted]
Last Name	Welle
First Name	Daniel
M.I.	
Sex	M
Race	W
Rank	Detective
Unit Assignment	OSS
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)	112K
ShiftTime (circle only one): EM / PM / Day	PM (circled)
ShiftType (circle only one): Regular / Overtime / Off Duty	Overtime (circled)
Intoxication/Drug Usage?	☐
Substance Used	
Hospital Admission?	☐
Hospital Name	
Coroner Case?	☐
Coroner Case #	
Interviewed?	☒
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	8
Duty Time (hrs)	[redacted]
Clothing (circle only one): Plain Clothes no Vest / Plain Clothes w/ Vest / Raid Jacket no Vest / Raid Jacket w/ Vest / Uniform no Vest / Uniform w/ Vest	Plain Clothes w/ Vest (circled)
Other Factors	
Age	[redacted]
Height	602
Weight	260
Range Qualification Date	[redacted]
PPC Qualification Date	[redacted]
Laser Training Date	[redacted]
Certified with Weapon Used?	[redacted]
Patrol Certification?	[redacted]
Certification Unit	[redacted]
Prior Shootings?	[redacted]
Number of Prior Shootings	[redacted]
Directed Force	[redacted]
Weapons Fired Brand	Colt AR 15
Caliber	223
# Shots	1
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp #	[redacted]
Last Name	[redacted]
First Name	[redacted]
M.I.	[redacted]

E __

Field	Value
Employee #	
Last Name	
First Name	
M.I.	
Sex	
Race	
Rank	
Unit Assignment	
Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.)	
ShiftTime (circle only one): EM / PM / Day	
ShiftType (circle only one): Regular / Overtime / Off Duty	
Intoxication/Drug Usage?	☐
Substance Used	
Hospital Admission?	☐
Hospital Name	
Coroner Case?	☐
Coroner Case #	
Interviewed?	☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting	
Duty Time (hrs)	
Clothing (circle only one): Plain Clothes no Vest / Plain Clothes w/ Vest / Raid Jacket no Vest / Raid Jacket w/ Vest / Uniform no Vest / Uniform w/ Vest	
Other Factors	
Age	
Height	
Weight	
Range Qualification Date	
PPC Qualification Date	
Laser Training Date	
Certified with Weapon Used?	☐
Patrol Certification?	☐
Certification Unit	
Prior Shootings?	☐
Number of Prior Shootings	
Directed Force	☐
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Weapons Fired Brand	
Caliber	
# Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp #	
Last Name	
First Name	
M.I.	
Field Training Officer Emp #	
Last Name	
First Name	
M.I.	

See Other Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Suspect Information

URN: 012-08277-1197-051

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name: Ridgway	First Name: Matthew	M.I.: J
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: M Race: W	Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	State & Zip Code: [redacted]
Work Phone: [redacted]	Home Phone: [redacted]	Social Security #: [redacted]	Driver's License #: [redacted]
Age: 29 D.O.B. 12/17/82	Height: 604 Weight: 212	FBI #: [redacted]	CII #: [redacted]
Booking #: 3147007	Primary Charge: 245(a)(1) P.C.	Secondary Charge: 245(a)(2) P.C.	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☒	Substance Used: Alcohol
Armed? ☒	Apprehended? ☒	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? [redacted]
Vehicle Make: None		Model:	Year:

S__

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make:		Model:	Year:

S__

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make:		Model:	Year:

S__

Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:
AKA Last Name:	First Name:	M.I.:

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City:	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #:	CII #:
Booking #:	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #:	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make:		Model:	Year:

See Other Side

SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

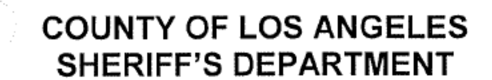
Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]		M.I. [redacted]
Street Address [redacted]	Zip Code [redacted]	Work Ph	Home Ph [redacted]
Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]		M.I. [redacted]
Street Address [redacted]	Zip Code [redacted]	Work Ph	Home Ph [redacted]
Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]		M.I. [redacted]
Street Address [redacted]	Zip Code [redacted]	Work Ph	Home Ph [redacted]
Last Name	First Name		M.I.
Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
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Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name	First Name		M.I.
Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name	First Name		M.I.
Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
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Last Name	First Name		M.I.
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Last Name	First Name		M.I.
Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name	First Name		M.I.
Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph

SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYEE WITNESSES
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Street Address	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	Lancaster patrol		(661) 948-8466	



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

UNIT:	Lancaster Sheriff's Station
DATE:	May 5, 2012, 2147 Hours, Saturday
LOCATION:	[redacted] Mackennas Gold Avenue, Palmdale CA 93591
URN#:	012-08277-1197-051
IAB#:	SH2312180

SYNOPSIS:

On May 5, 2012, Lancaster Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the above location regarding an assault (Tag#394). An elderly woman, Victim [redacted], who resides at the residence ([redacted] Mackennas Gold Avenue) was severely beaten by her adult [redacted], Matthew Ridgway, who lives with her at the home. The assault occurred inside of the residence and the Sheriff's Department was called.

SUMMARY:

While the deputies were enroute to the call, they were advised via dispatch that the suspect was inside the location, armed with a hand gun, and preventing the victim from leaving.

As the deputies arrived at the location, victim [redacted] escaped from the side of the residence. Deputies pulled victim [redacted] to safety and observed her to have severe trauma to her face. Victim [redacted] told deputies that her [redacted] had assaulted her and threatened to kill her with a rifle. She also told deputies that her [redacted] was wearing camouflage and "was preparing for war because he believed the end was coming."

The deputies requested an aero unit and contained the area around the residence. The residence is in an extremely rural area. The rear yard merges with the desert rising precipitously to an approximately 500 foot hill of dense scrub and exposed cliffs.

Suspect Ridgway subsequently ran out of the house disappearing into the rugged scrubland when the air ship departed to refuel. Deputies on containment observed Suspect Ridgway wearing a Kevlar helmet, bullet proof vest, and armed with a rifle.

Given the extreme danger posed by the heavily armed Ridgway, the absolute darkness and the unfamiliar and extremely rugged terrain the deputies did not pursue Ridgway into the desert. They expanded their perimeter to prevent Ridgway from escaping and awaited the return of the airship.

The aero unit returned and the search for Suspect Ridgway continued. A resident telephoned the station and advised the desk there was a man hiding in a shed located on her property. The property was located approximately [redacted] yards [redacted] of the suspect's residence.

Deputies along with aero bureau responded to [redacted] 167th Street, Palmdale, to contain the location. Deputies observed Suspect Ridgway hiding in one of three sheds located on the property. Deputies set up containment and called for county resources.

Due to the nature of the call and the updates received, deputies formulated a plan to safely rescue the residents of the location where Suspect Ridgway was seen. The occupants of the residence were evacuated from the house and led to safety.

During the evacuation of the residents, Detective Welle, had positioned himself west of the residence, observed Suspect Ridgway run from a shed and raise his right arm in a ninety degree angle toward the residence that was being evacuated. Detective Welle, fearing for the lives of the deputies and the residents, fired one shot from his AR-15. Suspect Ridgway fell to the ground out of Detective Welle's sight.

Deputy Smith was providing cover for the deputies as they evacuated the residents observed Suspect Ridgway run from one of the sheds and raise his arm in a shooting motion. Deputy Smith heard one gunshot and believed Suspect Ridgway was shooting at him.

Deputy Smith fired several rounds from his duty weapon and saw Suspect Ridgway fall to the ground. While on the ground, Suspect Ridgway maneuvered his body and appeared to be pointing a weapon at Deputy Smith. Deputy Smith fired several additional rounds and reassessed. After Deputy Smith fired several volleys at Suspect Ridgway, Suspect Ridgway rolled onto his back and yelled out "I'm hit."

The deputies formed an arrest team and subsequently arrested Suspect Ridgway without further incident.

The following review is based on written documentation, interviews of witnesses, involved deputies, and medical staff.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

Welle, Daniel, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station,
Field Operations Region I

EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY:

Date of Employment: 08/99
Date assigned to Patrol: [redacted]
Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]

Smith, Scott, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station,
Field Operations Region I

EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY:

Date of Employment: 08/07
Date assigned to Patrol: [redacted]
Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]

SUSPECT:

RIDGWAY, Matthew J., MW/27
[redacted]

The suspect's criminal history consists [redacted]

Refer to Exhibit A, Homicide Book, pages 101- 120 for Suspect Ridgway's Criminal History.

INVOLVED DEPUTY WITNESS:

BUSCH, Joshua #[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station,
Field Operations Region I

DOBRA, Shane #[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station,
Field Operations Region I

[redacted]**#**[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station,
Field Operations Region I

DIMMITT, Christopher #[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station,
Field Operations Region I

ALLEN, Eric #[redacted]
Homeland Security
Aero Bureau

CURIEL, Ricardo #[redacted]
Homeland Security
Aero Bureau

DIGIOVANNI, Ronald (Sergeant) #[redacted]
Lancaster Sheriff's Station
Field Operations Region I

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESSES:

[redacted]
FW/ DOB: [redacted]

[redacted]
MH/DOB [redacted]

[redacted]
FW/ [redacted]



[redacted]
FW[redacted]

INJURIES:

[redacted]
Bruised and swollen right eye
Large bruise to right side of forehead
Bruise to bridge of nose
Left eye deeply bruised and swollen
Bruise to left side of chin
Large bruise to left shoulder and upper arm
Swollen right knee

Suspect:

Suspect Ridgway sustained one gunshot wound to his left flank area. Ridgway was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Paramedics. Ridgway was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital by helicopter. He was treated and cleared for booking. **Refer to Exhibit A, Homicide Book, page 21.**

Deputy Personnel:

No deputy personnel were injured.

WEATHER AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS:

This incident occurred during a clear cool evening. The area is very rural with no street lights. Lighting was limited to residential porch lighting and a full moon.

WEAPON USED BY SUSPECT:

No weapon was recovered from the person of suspect Ridgway, However, Homicide investigators recovered a .223 caliber rifle and a camouflage vest (Ev-23, 24) from the ridge directly behind the residence of Suspect Ridgway. The following weapons were recovered from the ridge and residence of Suspect Ridgway, Armscor rifle Serial # AP[redacted] Kel Tec rifle Serial # N[redacted] Mossberg Shotgun Serial # T[redacted] Ruger Mini 14 rifle, Remington .223 caliber rifle **Lab Receipt numbers K402133, K402134, K402135, K402136, K402137, Refer to Exhibit A, Homicide Book, pages 55-65.**

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Deputy Scott Smith
Service Weapon- Heckler and Koch , USP .45 caliber, (Serial #[redacted]), Semi-Automatic Pistol.
Type of Ammunition- .45mm.
Ammunition- 14 rounds fired.
Shell Casings- 14 (.45 mm shell casings) located at the scene.

Deputy Daniel Welle
Service Weapon- Colt model M4LE, 5.56x 223mm semi-automatic rifle, (Serial #LE[redacted])
Type of Ammunition- .223mm
Ammunition- One round fired
Shell Casings- One located at scene

Both weapons were examined, test fired, and found to be functional by Firearms Examiner Anny H. Wu #[redacted] from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Scientific Services Bureau, Firearms Identification Section. **Lab Receipt Numbers: K402129, K402130, K402132. Refer to Exhibit A, Homicide Book, Pages 55-65.**

INVOLVED DEPUTIES STATEMENT:

Deputy Scott Smith, Employee #[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 0810 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 43-46 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Internal Affairs Bureau conducted a Shooting Review interview on April 08, 2013, at approximately 1025 hours. The following is a summary of the incident as described by Deputy Smith. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing Deputy Smith's recorded interview (Job #37166) and attached interview transcription.

Deputy Smith had just finished his shift and was in the station writing reports when he heard over the PA system a 245 call along with 417. As he and his partner Deputy Dobra left the station, the call was updated to a barricaded suspect and a hostage situation. It took Deputy Smith approximately thirty minutes to reach [redacted] Mackennas Gold Avenue.

Deputy Smith was assigned to take a containment spot east of the residence. He heard a deputy broadcast on the radio the suspect was running in the backyard. Deputy Smith, using the spotlight of his patrol vehicle, observed Suspect Ridgway running up a mountain that butts up to the backyard of the residence. Suspect Ridgway was armed with a rifle and wearing a vest and helmet.

Suspect Ridgway ran approximately seventy five yards and turned toward the deputies. Deputy Smith saw that Suspect Ridgway was carrying the rifle with one hand on the pistol grip and one hand on the barrel. Deputy Smith believed Suspect Ridgway may have had military training based on his movements and the cover he was taking as he ran up the hill.

Due to the distance and the ineffectiveness of the weapons at his disposal, Deputy Smith and his partner took cover behind their vehicle to observe where the suspect was running. The deputies put out the updated location of the suspect on the radio.

Deputy Smith, Deputy Dondra, and Deputy Busch entered their patrol vehicle and drove to the residential area located over the hill where Suspect Ridgway was last seen running.

They arrived at their secondary containment area to try to get a visual on the suspect if he came over the hill. While at their location an update was given the suspect had attempted to enter a residence below their location. The update said the suspect was hiding in shed and the informant was scared because of the young children in the house.

Deputy Smith remained in position approximately 100 yards from where the suspect was last seen. Deputy Smith felt relatively safe because his position was elevated from where the suspect was. Deputy Smith was also lying on the ground to provide less of a silhouette. Deputy Smith was joined by Detective Welle and Deputy [redacted].

The caller was told via telephone to turn their porch light on/off to pinpoint where they lived. Deputy Smith saw the light flickering and identified the house. Based on the events leading up to the second containment, and the fear of the residents who made the phone call, the deputies formulated a plan to walk down and evacuate the occupants.

The plan was to have Detective Welle, who was armed with an AR-15 rifle, and his partner, take a position where they could provide cover for the deputies who were going to evacuate the family. Deputy Smith would also take a cover position while the deputies performed the rescue.



They advised the command post of their plan and proceeded slowly toward the house. As the deputies approached the residence, Deputy Smith kicked two boxes of .223 caliber ammunition that were on the ground. He remembered asking the residents if the ammunition belonged to them. The residents said the ammunition did not belong to them. Deputy Smith believed the ammunition belonged to the suspect which convinced Deputy Smith the suspect was armed with a high powered rifle.

The aero unit arrived and the deputies began their evacuation. Deputy Smith heard the updates regarding the suspect running around the sheds and timing the orbit of the helicopter. Deputy Smith advised his partners he would take a position to the south-east of the residence to better observe Suspect Ridgway if he ran toward the rear of the house to outflank their position.

As Deputy Smith reached the outdoor southeast corner of the house he heard on the radio, the suspect was running. Deputy Smith observed Suspect Ridgway approximately thirty yards away behind an empty boat trailer. Suspect Ridgway turned and faced directly toward Deputy Smith. Suspect Ridgway raised his right arm as if holding a handgun and pointed toward Deputy Smith.

At this point Deputy Smith said he feared for his life. His backdrop was a shed and lighting was provided by the helicopter as it orbited.

Deputy Smith heard one gunshot and believed the suspect was shooting at him. Deputy Smith shot 3-4 times and saw the suspect drop to the ground. The suspect did not fall to the ground but dropped as if assuming a prone position. Suspect Ridgway then proceeded to place his arms out in front of him as if assuming the firing position with a rifle.

Deputy Smith fired another burst of 3 to 4 shots. Suspect Ridgway continued repositioning himself as if to get a better view of Deputy Smith. Deputy Smith fired another burst of 3 to 4 shots and realized he was out of ammunition. Deputy Smith told Deputy Dobra he was out of ammunition. Deputy Dobra covered the suspect with the shotgun as Deputy Smith reloaded. Deputy Dobra kept asking Deputy Smith where the suspect was because he could not see him.

Deputy Smith reloaded and took the high position above Deputy Dobra who was kneeling. Deputy Smith saw Suspect Ridgway in the same prone position but in another spot. Deputy Smith fired one more time and saw Suspect Ridgway roll over and throw his arms out. Deputy Smith believed the threat was over at that point.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Detective Daniel Welle, Employee #[redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 0740 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 49-52 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators conducted a Shooting Review interview on May 1, 2013, at approximately 1251 hours. The following is a summary of the incident as described by Detective Welle. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing Detective Welle's recorded interview (Job #37403) and attached interview transcription.

Detective Welle was working a Lancaster Station suppression car on May 5, 2012. Detective Welle responded to the incident when he heard the suspect had run out of his residence and up the mountain.

Detective Welle responded to 167th Street. There he met with Deputy Busch, Deputy Smith, and Deputy Dobra. A containment had already been set up by other deputies and Detective Welle was being used as a rover. The deputies were advised by dispatch that the suspect may be hiding on the property of Witness [redacted] located at [redacted]. Detective Welle asked dispatch to have the occupants of the residence turn their porch light on/off to indicate where they were.

Detective Welle formulated a plan to approach the residence, investigate, and confirm if it was the suspect who was seen on the property. He advised the command post of his plan. He also requested aero to not fly over the location because he was afraid the airship would give away their position as they approached. Aero was on scene and was conducting a search of the mountain area.

As Detective Welle approached the residence he observed the suspect inside a shed. Detective Welle advised the deputies of his observations. Detective Welle took a position west of the shed and kept his observation of the suspect. Aero flew over the residence to provide lighting.

Detective Welle observed the suspect run around the sheds as aero was orbiting. Detective Welle did not see the suspect armed with a weapon at this time. Detective Welle believed he was in the prone position west of the suspect for approximately fifteen minutes.

Detective Welle believed keeping the suspect confined to the shed area was the best option until additional resources arrived.

Detective Welle saw the suspect run parallel to the house at a sprint after the helicopter had passed. Detective Welle saw the suspect raise his hand in a ninety degree angle toward the house that was being evacuated. Detective Welle believed the suspect was going to engage the deputies who were at that residence.

Detective Welle shot once at the suspect and saw him fall to the ground. Detective Welle could no longer see the suspect from his vantage point. Detective Welle heard gun fire coming from the southeast side of the house where the deputies were.

Detective Welle did not take a second shot because he did not perceive a threat from the suspect. It appeared to Detective Welle the suspect was trying to get up and continue running.

Detective Welle moved his position because he could still hear the reports of a gun being fired. He believed the suspect was engaging the other deputies. When Detective Welle reached his secondary position, Detective Welle could see the suspect was on his back with his hands outstretched. Detective Welle called for a cease fire because he felt the threat had been neutralized.

Detective Welle formed an arrest team and approached the suspect. Once the suspect was secured, paramedics were summoned to provide medical attention to the suspect.

INVOLVED DEPUTY WITNESS STATEMENT:

Deputy Joshua Busch, Employee #[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 0645 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 38-41of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Internal Affairs Bureau investigators conducted a Shooting Review interview on May 1, 2013, at approximately 1729 hours. The following is a summary of the incident as described by Deputy Busch. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing Deputy Busch's recorded interview (Job #37406) and attached interview transcription.

Deputy Busch said he was on containment on Mackennas Gold Avenue when he observed the suspect running up the mountain. After the suspect ran out of view, Deputy Busch along with Deputy Smith and Deputy Dobra drove to 167th Street to gain an advantage on the suspect if he came over the hill.

Deputy Busch was advised the suspect may be at [redacted] 167th Street. The deputies were directly south of the location on high ground. They were joined by Detective Welle and Deputy [redacted]

After formulating their plan, the deputies tactically approached the residence where they believed the suspect may have been hiding to evacuate the residents. Detective Welle signaled to Deputy Busch he had seen the suspect in a shed located on the target residence.

Deputy Busch, Deputy Smith, and Deputy Dobra made their way to the residence while Detective Welle and Deputy [redacted] covered their west flank. Deputy Busch contacted the occupants of the residence and escorted them south away from the suspect's location.

Deputy Busch was escorting the last occupant when he heard a loud rifle shot and several "pops" coming from the south of the residence he had just evacuated. Deputy Busch did not see Deputy Smith fire his weapon and he did not see Detective Welle fire his rifle.

Other deputies approached ready to assist. The deputies met with Detective Welle and approached the suspect who was down on the ground with his hands exposed. The suspect complied with the deputies' orders and was handcuffed without incident.

Deputy Busch recalled Sergeant Costleigh being present when the deputies' made their approach to the suspect but could not remember when he arrived.

Deputy Shane Dobra, Employee #[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 0710 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 41-43 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Deputy Dobra said he is assigned to [redacted] and was participating in a one month [redacted] which allows [redacted] deputies to ride with patrol deputies to gain experience in the field.

Deputy Dobra and his partner (Deputy Smith) left the station after they heard the call upgraded to a 245 with a possible hostage. As they arrived at the address on Mackennas Gold, Deputy Dobra heard deputies broadcast on the radio, the suspect was running from the rear of the location.



Deputy Dobra saw Suspect Ridgway wearing a tactical vest, helmet, and holding a rifle as he ran up the hill. Deputy Dobra said Suspect Ridgway clearly had the advantage with the rifle and the high ground. Deputy Dobra exited the vehicle along with his partner and took cover behind the vehicle. Deputy Dobra kept a visual of the suspect until he disappeared over the hill.

Deputy Dobra, Deputy Smith, and Deputy Busch got into a patrol vehicle and drove to an area that provided them with higher ground. They were attempting to take a position where they could see the suspect if he came down the hill toward the adjoining residential area.

Deputy Dobra was not familiar with the area and was following the lead of Deputy Smith. Deputy Dobra also believed he was on ATAC, but later discovered he had been on LTAC during the operation.

The deputies were joined by Detective Welle and Deputy [redacted] The desk advised there were citizens saying there was someone in their shed. The deputies formulated a plan to approach the house and assist the occupants to safety.

As Deputy Busch helped the residents leave the house, Deputy Dobra covered the north end of the house, while Deputy Smith went to the southeast corner of the house to provide cover.

Deputy Dobra said he held his position for approximately five minutes when he heard gunfire from Deputy Smith's position. Deputy Dobra ran to Deputy Smith's position believing he was engaging the suspect. The area was narrow and did not provide room for Deputy Dobra to safely join the gunfight.

As Deputy Dobra was hearing Deputy Smith fire his weapon, he thought the rounds were not being effective because the suspect was wearing a vest and helmet. He heard Deputy Smith yell "I'm out." Deputy Dobra went down on one knee and covered for Deputy Smith as he reloaded. Deputy Dobra could not locate the suspect and kept telling Deputy Smith he could not see the suspect.

Deputy Dobra finally located the suspect and saw him lying on the ground, on his stomach, with his arms extended. Deputy Dobra was unsure if the suspect was trying to access his weapon.

Deputy Dobra remembered asking Deputy Smith if he should shoot downrange at Suspect Ridgway with the shotgun. Deputy Smith told him not to shoot because an arrest team was approaching.

DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Deputy [redacted], Employee #[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 0550 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 47-49 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Deputy [redacted] and his partner Detective Welle were in the station when the initial call was broadcast. They did not leave the station until they heard the suspect had been seen running up the hill with a gun, vest, and helmet.

They drove directly to a position south of 167th Street, on a hill and met with Deputy Busch, Deputy Dobra, and Deputy Smith. Detective Welle told Deputy [redacted] the suspect had been seen in a shed somewhere below their location. Deputy [redacted] did not hear the radio traffic and was following Detective Welle's lead.

They formulated a plan to approach the house. They positioned themselves tactically once they saw where the suspect was. Deputy [redacted] saw Suspect Ridgway peek out from a shed he was hiding in every time the helicopter passed. The suspect kept to the shadows which made it difficult to see if he had a weapon. Suspect Ridgway ran around the three sheds several times staying out of the light of the helicopter.

Suspect Ridgway looked in Deputy [redacted] direction as if to see where they were. Deputy [redacted] believed Suspect Ridgway knew they were there because he may have seen them as they approached.

Deputy [redacted] notified deputies regarding what Suspect Ridgway was doing. As Deputy [redacted] was advising the units, Suspect Ridgway ran from the shed toward the back of the residence. The helicopter was orbiting north.

Deputy [redacted] heard one gunshot and then a series of gunshots. He put out emergent traffic regarding a 998 on ATAC. He was not sure who had fired the shots.

Shortly after the shots were fired Deputy [redacted] was joined by Deputy Dimmit and his partner. He was unsure where they came from. An arrest team was formed and they approached Suspect Ridgway and handcuffed him without incident.

Deputy Christopher Dimmit, Employee #[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 0615 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on page 49 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Deputy Dimmit was working with his partner Deputy [redacted] when the call was broadcast. They did not respond until they heard the call updated to the suspect was seen running up the hill with a helmet, vest, and rifle.

Deputy Dimmit reached the south end of 167th Street and heard Detective Welle on the radio saying he could see the suspect in a shed.

Deputy Dimmit and Deputy [redacted] walked down the hill toward Deputy Busch who was evacuating the residents. They assisted Deputy Busch and were walking toward Detective Welle's position when Deputy Dimmit heard a gunshot. He saw the muzzle flash from Detective Welle's rifle. Deputy Dimmit immediately heard 5 to 6 gunshots from the opposite side, to the rear of the target house. Deputy Dimmit believed the suspect was shooting at deputies.

Deputy Dimmit saw Detective Welle get up from his prone position. He also saw Deputy [redacted] get up from his prone position. Detective Welle told Deputy Dimmit the suspect was down. They formed an arrest team and walked to the suspect.

Deputy Eric Allen, Employee #[redacted], was assigned to Aero Bureau as a pilot on May 5, 2012. He and his partner (Ricardo Curiel) responded to the incident. Deputy Allen did not witness the shooting because he was involved with keeping the helicopter in orbit and positioning the helicopter to assist the deputies on the ground.

Deputy Ricardo Curiel, Employee #[redacted], was assigned to Aero Bureau as an observer on May 5, 2012. He and his partner (Deputy Eric Allen) responded to the incident. Deputy Curiel did not remember the incident but checked his log book and confirmed he responded to the incident.

Sergeant Ronald Digiovanni, Employee #[redacted] was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators on May 1, 2013, at approximately 1418 hours. The following is a summary of the incident as described by Sergeant Digiovanni. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing Sergeant Digiovanni's recorded interview (Job #37404) and attached interview transcription.



Sergeant Digiovanni was one of two field sergeants assigned to Lancaster on May 5, 2012. Sergeant Digiovanni was in the station when the call was broadcast. Sergeant Digiovanni responded and heard the deputies on the radio, communicating regarding a containment. He was also aware of Department resources being asked for by the desk.

Sergeant Digiovanni drove to the Mackennas Gold address to assess the situation. Arriving deputies had set up a partial containment and were awaiting responding units. Deputies had also rescued Victim [redacted] from the residence as he arrived.

Sergeant Digiovanni was confirming the deputies' containment positions when he heard the suspect was running up the mountain. Sergeant Digiovanni observed the suspect running up the mountain and made sure no one gave chase. Sergeant Digiovanni advised deputies to widen the perimeter of their containment and await the air unit. Sergeant Digiovanni also made sure deputies remained at the residence in case the suspect doubled back.

Sergeant Digiovanni advised the command post regarding his actions. The command post was being supervised by Sergeant Zollo. Sergeant Digiovanni also advised his watch commander Lieutenant Daniels, who was in the station monitoring the incident.

Sergeant Digiovanni confirmed Department resources had been advised. Sergeant Digiovanni was advised Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB), Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), Canine (K-9), and nearby stations were responding to assist.

Sergeant Digiovanni remained at the Mackennas Gold residence while Operation Safe Streets Bureau (OSS) Sergeant Costleigh responded to the secondary containment position on 167th Street.

SUSPECT STATEMENTS:

Suspect Ridgway was interviewed by Homicide detectives on May 6, 2012 at approximately 0850 hours. Suspect Ridgway had been cleared for booking and was at Lancaster Sheriff's Station. A summary of their interview may found on pages 27-30 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** Internal Affairs investigators reviewed the tape recording of the interview and found that Homicide's summary of their interview is an accurate account of what was said.

Suspect Ridgway said he and his [redacted] "[redacted]" were drinking beer and whiskey at [redacted] house. Suspect Ridgway returned home and finished the bottle of whiskey. Suspect Ridgway said he and his [redacted] had an argument and she called the police. He ran into the hills because he thought he had a warrant.

Suspect Ridgway said he ran into the hills with a jacket and a paint ball type vest. He saw the helicopter circling overhead, so he ran to a friend's house and hid in a shed, and waited for the helicopter to leave. Suspect Ridgway popped out twice from the shed to see if the helicopter had left.

When he stepped out the second time he heard two shots and believed he was shot so he fell to the ground. He was handcuffed and taken into custody by deputies.

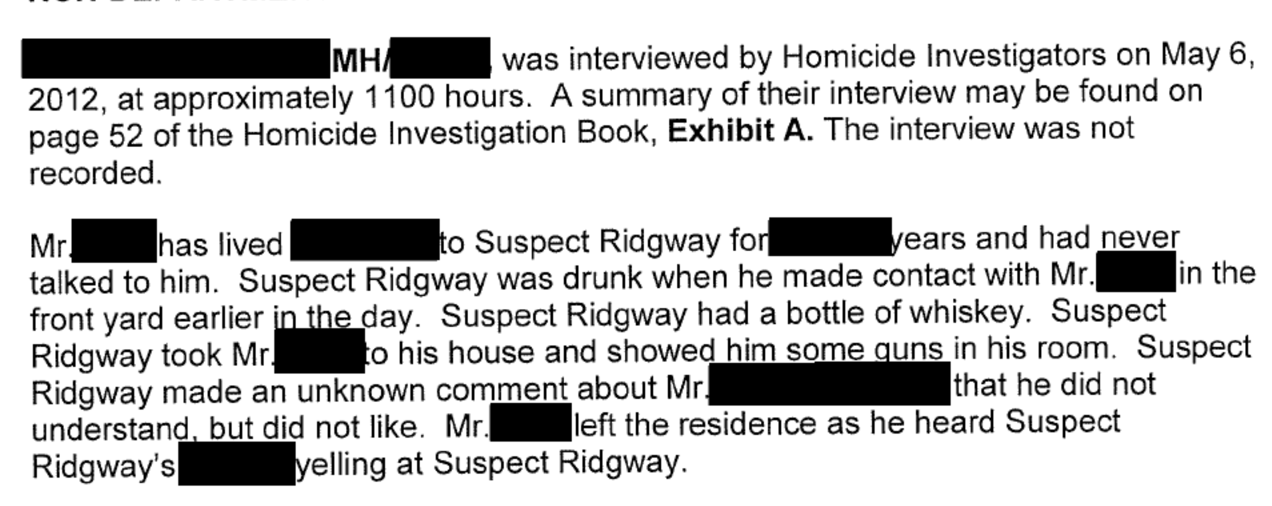
Suspect Ridgway denied leaving the residence with a rifle and vest. Homicide detectives told Suspect Ridgway they had found his rifle and vest in the hills. Suspect Ridgway said "I was just trying to hide them, if anything, I just did not want my [redacted] to do anything with them."

Detectives showed Suspect Ridgway a photograph of the rifle and vest that were found. Suspect Ridgway identified the items in the photograph as his and said he was wearing the vest when he left the residence because he did not want his [redacted] to break it. Suspect Ridgway was not sure if the rifle was loaded when he left the house.

Suspect Ridgway denied hitting his [redacted] and said they were arguing and he wanted to leave the house. Suspect Ridgway said his [redacted] may have sustained her injuries when she was trying to prevent him from leaving, but he could not remember.

Suspect Ridgway told detectives he had taken two ballistic helmets into the hills and asked if they had found them. He denied wanting to commit suicide and blamed the alcohol for his behavior. He demanded the weapons be returned to him because they were registered to him.

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESS STATEMENTS:



[redacted] MH/[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 1100 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on page 52 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** The interview was not recorded.

Mr. [redacted] has lived [redacted] to Suspect Ridgway for [redacted] years and had never talked to him. Suspect Ridgway was drunk when he made contact with Mr. [redacted] in the front yard earlier in the day. Suspect Ridgway had a bottle of whiskey. Suspect Ridgway took Mr. [redacted] to his house and showed him some guns in his room. Suspect Ridgway made an unknown comment about Mr. [redacted] that he did not understand, but did not like. Mr. [redacted] left the residence as he heard Suspect Ridgway's [redacted] yelling at Suspect Ridgway.



[redacted], was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 1130 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 52-53 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** The interview was not recorded.

[redacted] lives with her [redacted] at the residence where the shooting occurred. [redacted] has known Suspect Ridgway for [redacted] years. She saw Suspect Ridgway coming down the hillside. Suspect Ridgway was not holding a rifle, but [redacted] had heard from neighbors that Suspect Ridgway had beaten his [redacted] severely.

She heard the sirens and saw the helicopter and knew they were looking for Suspect Ridgway. [redacted] told her to lock the doors and turn off the lights as Suspect Ridgway approached. Suspect Ridgway knocked on the door but she nor her [redacted] answered the door.

[redacted] was interviewed by Homicide Investigators on May 6, 2012, at approximately 1130 hours. A summary of their interview may be found on pages 52-53 of the Homicide Investigation Book, **Exhibit A.** The interview was not recorded.

[redacted] is [redacted] and lives in the [redacted] house. [redacted] called neighbors and was told Suspect Ridgway had severely beaten his [redacted]. She saw him approaching and told her [redacted] to lock the doors and turn off the lights. [redacted] saw Suspect Ridgway hiding in the shed and dialed 911. She did not see the shooting because deputies were trying to take her out of the house.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR and CHARGES FILED:

Homicide Sergeant Barry Hall filed the following charges on May 8, 2012:
245 (a)(4) P.C.,245 (a)(2) P.C., 422 (a) P.C., 243 (d) P.C., 136.1(b) (1) P.C.
236 P.C., 417 (a)(1) P.C. under case number MA056138.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

Bullet holes to one of the three sheds located on the [redacted] side of [redacted]67th Street where Suspect Ridgway attempted to hide.